

## Miscellany Page.

### TOOK A KANSAS VIEW.

#### California Described as a Land of Beer and Fleas.

Miss Nellie Parker, of Lincoln, Kansas, is spending the summer in San Francisco. "I am out at the Cliff house," she writes to the Lincoln Republican. "A great many ladies are sitting by the windows. Nearly all of them are eating sandwiches and drinking beer. I think the most of them are from Kansas City, Mo. It would jar your Kansas nerves to see the men and women drink so much beer. I never saw any beer in my life until I came to California. I have seen it everywhere here with the single exception of my sister's house. It is said to see the women drink so much. The 'ladies' entrance' is part and parcel of the California saloon. I have seen turnouts generated by men and footmen dash up to these places and leave the ladies at the 'ladies' entrance—a rustle of silk and a swirl of chiffon and plumes and train—and in a few minutes out they came as merry as a load of Lincoln ladies who had just driven away from the polls on election day.

"California has twice, more than twice, as many saloons per capita as any other state in the Union. Now there is no effect without a cause. The state was settled first by Mexicans and next by adventurers of the days of '49, and all the time its vineyards and wineries are squeezing out millions of gallons of wines. Here are three causes: Mexicans, '49ers and vineyards. Add these up and see if the sum total does not produce a very good reason for the drunkenness and profligacy which is apparent and amazing to one who comes from a state where the laws are good and fairly obeyed. And now before I get off this high horse let me give a word of advice to the people of Kansas about to emigrate to California: Don't! It is better for the children to grow up in that land of drought and flood, hot winds and cold winds, crop failures and real estate men, joints and grasshoppers—much better than this lovely land of beer and roses, eternal fleas and sunshine, where the moss grows thickly on the roofs and fences of the ranches, and on the backs of the natives, and tongues of all new settlers.

"Then the fresh salmon and cod and flounder and fleas. It is given as a reason why churches in this city are slimly attended that the bite of the church flea is worse than the bite of any other flea in the world. I ought to know—I have been to church twice myself, and I tell you honestly that I was nibbled clear to my floating ribs. Most ladies carry hampers to church to stab the fleas with. When you get a bite, stab him as nearly as possible. If you don't kill the critter, you at least get relief—presumably on the principle of counter-irritation.

"I didn't mean to run off the track this way—from fish to fleas. Now, I'll go back and tell you that you can get a good meal for fifteen cents. Rent is very high, however. I have to pay \$5 a month for a little snickety room on Market street. There is a little patch of a window on a level with the next roof. If a drunken man should walk around up there he might fall through my window. So you see I may get a man that way—one may fall to me."—Kansas City Journal.

### THE LEG AS AN ORGAN OF HEARING.

Writing upon the interesting subject of "Forelegs and their Uses," Mr. E. A. Butler observes in "Knowledge" that "the common lobster furnishes one of the best possible illustrations of a curious principle that finds expression in the organization of animals whose body, like its own, is composed of a succession of segments with jointed appendages, or in other words, animals belonging to the great sub-kingdom Arthropoda. The principle in question is that the paired appendages of the different segments, though all constructed upon the same plan, may become so modified in form as to be adapted to the discharge of the most diverse functions. One of the strangest and most unexpected of the uses to which we could imagine a leg as being put is that of an organ of hearing. Yet such seems to be one at least of the functions of the fore-legs in the cricket and some other allied insects. On the outer side of the tibia a small oval space may be seen in which the strong armature which covers the rest of the body is reduced to a thin and membranous condition, making thus a sort of window or drumhead. Communicating with this, inside the leg, are the ends of a nerve, and it can hardly be doubted therefore that the whole apparatus constitutes an auditory organ, so that if these legs were amputated the insect would become deaf. When one remembers that crickets are amongst the noisiest of insects, their incessant chirrup being a most shrill and penetrating sound, it cannot be considered strange that distinct organs of hearing should also be present; the sound-producer implies the sound-perceiver; the two functions are complementary; but still it is remarkable that the fore-leg should have been selected as the most suitable site for this important sense."

### THE BABY CYCLONE.

On a muggy night in May, When the sky was green and gray— Purple, too, with streaks of red, Then a baby cyclone pined: "Mamma, can I blow awhile?" Said the cyclone, with a smile, "Yes, my child, but do not stray From the State of Iowa." Then the baby cyclone With laughter in its eye Left its lair and gayly strayed, In a playful promenade, Frolicked through a farmer's farm, Took a haystack for a charm; Turned the buildings inside out With a happy childish shout; Sucked the cistern clean and dry, Filled the milk-cans standing by, Picked the chickens, killed a calf, Scampered onward with a laugh; Whisked the farmer from his door, Carried him a mile or more; Wrapped his boots around his neck, Dumped him down, a battered wreck, Frolicked gayly home again, Dragging in a daisy chain, Made of fences woven through Buildings, trees and haystacks, too. "Lookee, ma!" it cried in glee, "Here's a nice bouquet, you see. Aint you glad you let me go? I jus' had a lovely blow." —Ex.

## PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHY BY FRANK DAVEY

To be out of the fashion is to be out of the world. The fashion in photography is as volatile as any other. At present in Europe, to be in the swim with the upper ten you must have you photograph taken to represent a copy of an old painting such as Rembrandt, or any old master.

Some photographers go so far as to scratch the negatives to look like cracks in the paint; also sit his subject behind a sheet of glass to give the appearance of varnish. With the hair dressed as it was the style a century ago, and a Gainsborough hat some of the pictures are very effective. On sitting for a portrait, the likeness is the first consideration, yet the photograph should have the true character of the sitter which is just as important as the likeness, and unless you secure the individuality of the person it is not a portrait. In portraying an individual the photographer must study the character of his subject as expressed by light and shadow; it is his duty to find out how it is shown and catch it upon his plate. The painter can obliterate in order to make certain points more effective but the photographer cannot do that, he has but light and shadow to mark with, to do his work quickly, and accomplish in a few minutes what takes a painter perhaps months at altering and redrawing, then the painting becomes an idealized portrait, and a fiction; with the painter it is not the subject that makes the picture, it is the treatment.

Just examine a fine photograph by a good photographer, you will find neither pure white or pure black,—place a piece of white paper at the side of the collar, you will find the collar in the picture is far from being white; the same with the darkest part of a good photo. Local color is one thing, and appearance of the color another.

Take a piece of scarlet, place it upon black velvet, it appears brown; put it upon dark blue, then it appears black. If colors are so erratic, monochrome is just as deceptive except to a trained vision. Some people cannot understand when they see a high class portrait by a good photographer and wonder why such a commonplace photograph elicited such praise from critics, they do not know that beauty consists quite as much in the absence of disturbing elements as in the presence of attractive ones. The fewer accessories in the picture the better, but more difficult to make up a picture. The eye cannot rest comfortably upon a picture if you have glaring accessories, the subject should be so lighted that the eye rests in the center of the picture; the background should appear as space, but balanced by shadows from objects that are scarcely perceptible. In itself no background is able to make a bad picture good; but many a good subject is spoiled by inharmonious accessories. Many people think the less the expression the better the picture. They do not realize the fact that by taking out the modeling of the face they are handing down to posterity a picture that will be criticized and that it will be decided whether or not they are intelligent. That is why the negative should be softened and have all the delineation possible in it, unless the face is a bad one, then by all means change the expression. If the face is a good one (and nature leaves her mark upon the face according to the acts of the person) and the retoucher makes the subject look like a vacant imbecile in alabaster, he destroys nature. Nothing is more beautiful than to see the lines that are caused by goodness. Study the face of a professional gambler or woman of the world. There you see the hard expressionless face with tight lips and cold eye, especially the gambler, whose main study is to hide his thoughts. The smile of this type is mechanical, like the stereotyped smile of a city waiter. The cold calculating person smiles with the mouth. The good genuine smile comes from the eyes. There is more to be read in the eyes than all the other parts put together. How wanting in character are most of the photographic portraits owing to the manipulation of the photographer.



FRANK DAVEY.



## PROPOSED PANAMA ROUTE FOR COMING ISTHMIAN CANAL

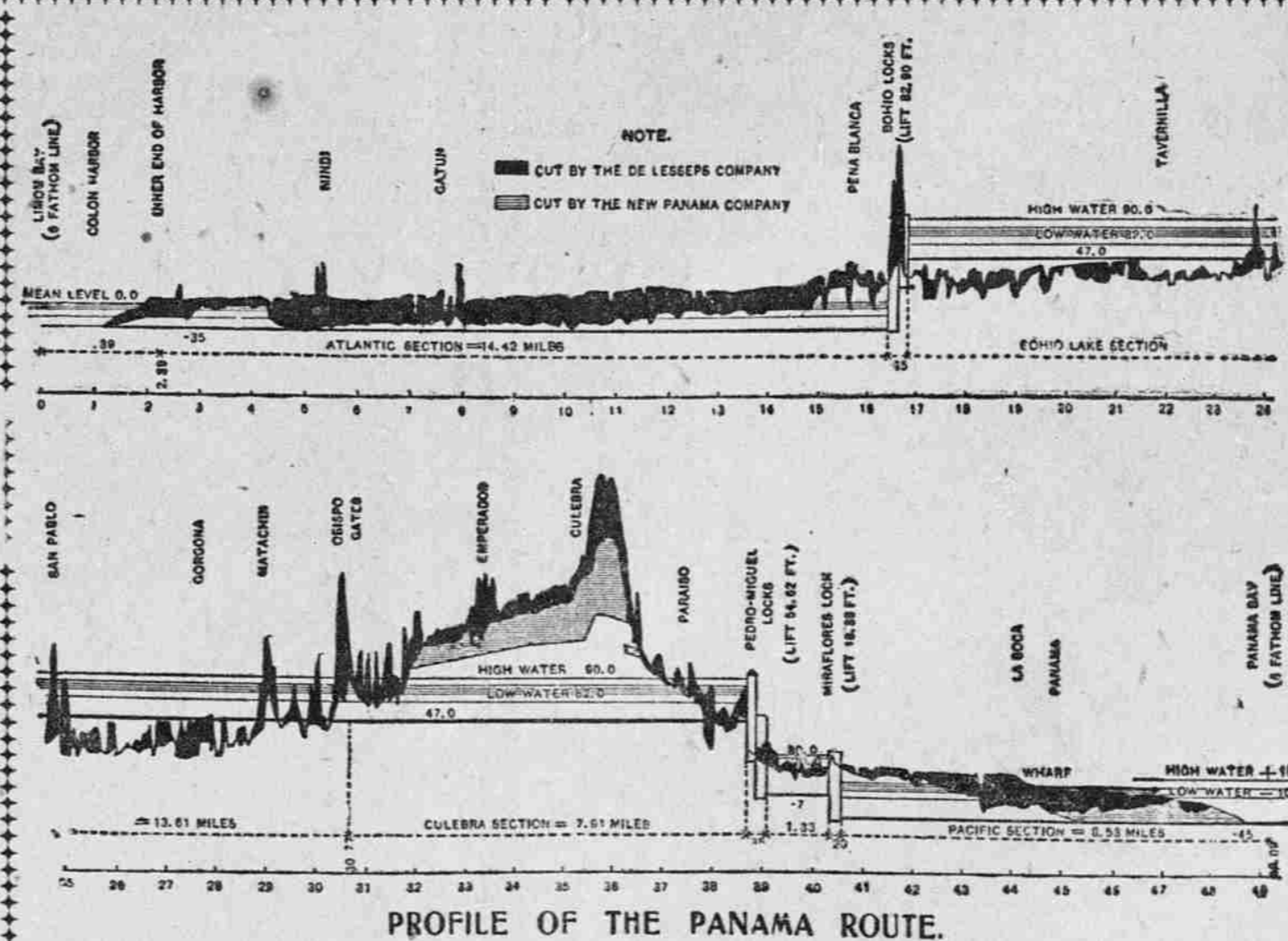
The passage by Congress of the so-called "Spooner substitute" for the Isthmian Canal bill, by the terms of which a canal is to be constructed under certain conditions by the Panama route rather than the Nicaraguan, lends an additional interest to Prof. William H. Burr's elaborate study of the Panama route, the first portion of which appears in the Popular Science Monthly for July. Professor Burr, it will be remembered, was one of the engineer members of the Isthmian Canal Commission, and is thoroughly familiar with all the materials relating to the Panama route that have been in the possession of the commission, as well as with all the special surveys and investigations made under the commission's authority during the past three years. While it is generally understood that the line adopted by the canal commission for the purposes of its plans and estimates was the route selected by the Panama Canal Company, several features of that route, as described by Professor Burr, are not matters of general knowledge. The route as outlined by Professor Burr is as follows: "Starting from the six-fathom contour in the harbor of Colon, the line follows the low marshy ground adjoining the Bay of Limon to its intersection with the Mendi River; thence through the low ground continuing to Gatun, about six miles from Colon, where it first meets the Chagres River. From this point to Obispo the canal line follows practically the general course of the Chagres River, although at one point in the marshes below Bohio it is nearly two miles from the farthest bend in the river at a small place called Ahorca Lagarto. Bohio is about seventeen miles from the Atlantic terminus, and Obispo about thirty miles. At the latter point the course of the Chagres River, passing up stream, lies to the northeast, while the general direction of the canal line is southeast toward Panama, the latter leaving the former at this location. The canal route follows up the general course of a small stream, called the Camacho, for a distance of nearly five miles, where the continental divide is found, and in which the great Culebra cut is located, about thirty-six miles from Colon and thirteen miles from the Panama terminus. After passing through the Culebra cut, the canal route follows the course of the Rio Grande River to its mouth at Panama Bay, where the mouth of the Rio Grande, where the canal line is located, is about a mile and a half westerly of the city of Panama. The Rio Grande is a small, sluggish stream throughout the last six miles of its course, and for that distance the canal excavation would be made mostly in soft silt or mud."

### HARBOR IMPROVEMENTS.

The commission considered the feasibility of a sea-level route with a tidal lock at the Panama end, and it was found that the approximate cost of completing the work on that plan would be about \$20,000,000, while the time required would probably be nearly or twice that needed for the construction of a canal with locks. The commission therefore adopted a project for a canal with locks. The commission projected a canal channel into the harbor of Colon which, with the construction of the harbor itself, was estimated to cost over \$8,000,000, while the annual cost of maintenance was placed at \$20,000. Regarding the harbor at the Pacific end of the channel Professor Burr says: "The harbor of Panama, as it now exists, is a large area of water at the extreme northern limit of the bay, immediately adjacent to the city of Panama, protected from the south by the three islands of Perico, Naos, and Culebra. It has been called a roadstead. There is good anchorage for heavy-draft ships, but for the most part the water is shallow. With the commission's requirement of a minimum depth of water of thirty-five feet, a channel about four miles long from the mouth of the Rio Grande to the six-fathom line in Panama Bay must be excavated. This channel would have a bottom width of two hundred feet with side slopes of one on three where the material is soft. Considerable rock would have to be excavated in this channel. At a distance of about four miles from the mouth of the Rio Grande, a branch of the Panama Railroad Company runs to this wharf, and at the present time deep-draft ships lie up alongside of it, and take on and discharge cargo, as do the trains of the Panama Railroad Company. This wharf is a steel-framed structure, founded upon steel cylinders, carried down to bedrock by the pneumatic process. Its cost was about \$1,250,000. The total cost of this excavation, leading from Panama Harbor to the pier at La Boca, is estimated by the commission at \$1,454,513. As the harbor at Panama is considered an open roadstead, it requires no estimate for annual cost of maintenance."

### THE DAM AT BOHIO.

The principal engineering feature of the route is found at Bohio, where there will be a great dam constructed across the Chagres River, forming Lake Bohio, the summit of the canal. This lake will have a superficial area during high water of about forty square miles. The water will be backed up to a point called Ahorca Lagarto, about twenty-five miles up the river from Bohio. For a distance of nearly fourteen miles, from Bohio to Obispo, the route of the canal would lie in this lake. Although the water would be from eighty to ninety feet deep at the dam,



PROFILE OF THE PANAMA ROUTE.

## HUMOROUS

King Edward is nearly ready to consider his doctors' bills.—The Philadelphia Ledger.

The open summer-car will never be an entire success until every seat is an ard one.—The Baltimore American.

What Mr. Roosevelt wants is more publicity for the trusts and less for a President on his vacation.—The Kansas City Journal.

Minister Wu's Americanization is more complete than was thought. He is going to write a book.—The Baltimore American.

M. Santos-Dumont is testing his airship in New Jersey, the best place on earth for inflating things.—The St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Mont Pelée keeps on throwing mud just the same as if an election were in progress in Martinique.—The Florida Times-Union.

The war in the Philippines has cost the United States over \$100,000,000 thus far. But think of the glory!—The Chicago Record-Herald.

Unfortunately, it is the population of the Isthmus, not the Isthmus itself, that is being rent by internal strife.—The Philadelphia Ledger.

It may be that the Czar has inaugurated his move against the trusts because Mr. Morgan did not come to see him first.—The Baltimore American.

"An' fuddermo', broderen," declared Parson Snowball, while the revival was in progress, "an' fuddermo', I's havy ter say dat wut we does in dis wold we gwine ter do in de nex'."

Here some one in the amen corner set up a wild chorus of "Glory! Glory!" "Who dat done got de grace?" asked Parson Snowball.

"Dat's Zek Johnson. He drives de ice wagon," said one of the deacons, in tones that bordered on sarcasm.

### SUMMER BEVERAGES.

An excellent claret cup consists of one pint of claret, one pint of soda, the juice of one lemon, a sherry glass full of liquor, one slice of cucumber rind, one orange, a bunch of mint and a large piece of ice.

### GINGER ALE JULEP.

Put into a punch bowl a cupful of granulated sugar and the juice of six lemons. Keep in the ice box until the sugar is dissolved. Put six stalks of mint in the bowl, bruising the leaves slightly as you do so; half fill the bowl with crushed ice; put in two bottles of ginger ale; stir until very cold and serve.

### PINEAPPLE WATER.

Slice, peel and wash well a large pineapple; then pour on it a pint of boiling sugar syrup and the juice of a lemon; stir well, cover over closely and let stand for two hours; strain through a fine sieve, and when ready to serve add a quart of plain soda.

### ORGEATE.

Orgate is a quaint old beverage. Originally it was a simple barley water. Today it consists of half a pound of blanched and peeled almonds pounded to a paste in a mortar; add three pints of water to them and press through a linen cloth; melt a pound and a half of sugar over the stove with a pint of water; when it is a clear syrup add it to the almond milk with a teaspoonful of orange flower water. Serve cold.

### COWSLIP WINE CUP.

Rub off all the yellow part of a half of lemon rind on a lump of loaf sugar and place this in a jug, adding as much more sugar as will make two ounces. Strain into this the juice of a lemon; and a spoonful of brandy and one bottle of cowslip wine and let stand on the ice for an hour or so, and then pour in one or two bottles of iced soda water.

### GINGER POP.

Two gallons of boiling water, two pounds of sugar, two ounces of cream of tartar, two ounces of root ginger, one lemon cut up fine. Let the ingredients stand until lukewarm; then put into a stone jar; add large slices of stale bread and two cakes of compressed yeast; allow to remain in a warm place over night; strain and bottle, filling the bottles only two-thirds full and fasten the corks securely; bottles with patent corks are best. In from three to four days the pop will be ready for use.

### IN FLANNIGAN'S GARDEN.

Mr. W. S. Skolfield of Lewiston is a capital story teller and he always has a good stock on hand and is ever ready to entertain with these humorous anecdotes. As he leaned over the counter one day this week in the course of conversation he remarked, "That reminds me of a story," and one story led to another and these are some of the yarns he spun:

"A burly old Irishman was out hoeing in his garden one Sabbath morning and had been at work but a short time when the priest happened by and reprimanded him for laboring on Sunday. "But shure, and what harm does it do to work on Sunday? Nobody can see me and I have no lither time?" says Pat.

"Oh, yes, Pat, somebody sees you. God sees you all the time."

"And shure, and does He see Hooligan over there in his garden?"

"Yes, He sees Hooligan over there in his garden; He sees everyone!"

"But shure, and yer honor! does He see Donnegan over there in his garden?"

"Yes, Pat, I told you He sees everyone. He sees you in your garden; He sees Hooligan in his garden, and He sees Donnegan in his garden; He sees everyone!"

"Well, but yer honor, does He see Flannigan over in his garden?"

"Now Pat, be reasonable; I told you He sees everyone and of course He sees Flannigan over there in his garden."

"You're shure He sees Flannigan over in his garden?"

"Yes, I'm sure."

"Aw, shure, and what are ye givin' us; Flannigan hain't got any garden!"

Professor Burr says that for several miles below Obispo it will be necessary to make some excavation along the general course of the Chagres in order to secure the minimum depth of thirty-five feet for the navigable canal. The Bohio dam will raise the water surface of the canal from sea level in the Atlantic maritime section to an ordinary maximum of ninety feet above sea level. This total lift is divided into parts of forty-five feet each. There will therefore be a flight of two locks at Bohio.